

Harkin and Iowa Law Enforcement: Partners in Keeping Iowans Safe and Drug Free

"Iowa is fortunate to have a law enforcement community that works seamlessly to keep Iowans safe, putting their lives on the line to protect our towns and cities. It has been an honor to work with Sheriffs and Police Chiefs across the state to bring critical resources to law enforcement and to address the methamphetamine crisis with innovative programs and effective laws."—Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)



(Photo caption: In 2008, Harkin moderated a roundtable with Iowa law enforcement leaders. The roundtables have allowed Harkin to stay informed of emerging trends and provide resources to meet the needs of law enforcement across the state.)

National Byrne Grant Champion:

Since 1989, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Harkin has been the national leader in ensuring that the Edward J. Byrne grant program is funded at levels that allow the program to adequately support law enforcement in Iowa and around the country. Byrne grants provide federal dollars to state and local law enforcement programs. In Iowa, the program has been used by local law enforcement to operate 38 drug task forces, hire additional law enforcement officers, establish special prosecutors for meth related crimes, prevent illegal drug activities, and fund innovative criminal justice programs. **Harkin has continually fought to reverse disastrous spending cuts for this program and to increase funding for the program. As a result of his leadership, the Byrne program has provided \$44 million dollars to Iowa law enforcement since 2003.**

A timeline of key events in Harkin's work to protect the program:

- 1994: Harkin restored \$425 million to the Byrne grant program.
- 1999: Harkin successfully added \$100 million to Byrne funding (resulting in an additional \$1.2 million for Iowa.)
- 2001: Harkin restored \$1.5 billion in Byrne and other law enforcement funding through a budget amendment.
- 2003: Harkin increased Byrne funding by \$500,000 in Omnibus Appropriations bill.
- 2008: Harkin restored \$660 million to the program in supplemental appropriations bill.

Fighting the Iowa Methamphetamine Epidemic:

Working with Iowa law enforcement leaders, Harkin has secured more than \$10.7 million in additional funds specifically directed at controlling methamphetamine production in Iowa. The programs these funds have supported including:

Multi-County Meth Clandestine Lab Task Forces in the South Central and East Central Counties specifically directed at controlling the proliferation of labs throughout the state. More than \$2 million in federal dollars was ultimately brought to bear in the effort to control the production of meth in home labs in these two 18 county areas. Additional resources ensured that the Division of Narcotics Enforcement and the Iowa State Patrol were able to create specific meth interdiction teams to focus on traffic through I-80 and I-35.

Innovative Anhydrous Ammonia “Tanks-a- Lock” program that provided \$1.1 million over four years to pay for voluntary locks on anhydrous ammonia fertilizer tanks. All 99 counties finished implementation of the program drastically reducing access to this meth precursor around the state. Harkin also initiated aggressive and successful research into altering anhydrous ammonia to make it useless to those that manufacture meth.

The Combat Meth Act: In 2005 Iowa passed the most comprehensive law that placed controls on the sale of pseudoephedrine, a required pre-cursor for home meth production. The law led to dramatic declines in clandestine meth labs around the state. Harkin helped to ensure that the federal Combat Meth Act (S. 103) was similarly comprehensive while also preserving the Iowa’s law unique elements.

In 1995 Harkin led the effort to designate the *Midwest as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area* and gained federal recognition and resources to fight the meth epidemic in Iowa. In 1999 and 2001 Harkin offered amendments to ensure that the Midwest HIDTA had sufficient resources.

Alternatives to Incarceration:

Harkin secured more than \$5.5 million specifically to provide *jail based meth treatment* to non-violent offenders in four Iowa counties. This funding has helped to reduce recidivism across the state. Senator Harkin’s support has been critical in developing treatment and education programs to respond to the intensive needs of inmates with substance abuse and mental health issues. This assistance has been essential as jails have become the largest providers of front line mental health and substance abuse care in Iowa.

The methamphetamine epidemic particularly affected children in homes where methamphetamine was being cooked or multiple family members were struggling with addiction. Between 2004 and 2010, more than \$1.4 million was provided to the *Drug Endangered Children Program* in Iowa, which funded 24 DEC “rapid response teams” to bring together law enforcement, social workers, and juvenile health specialists to effectively address the needs of these children.

Harkin also worked to fund family-based meth treatment facilities in Council Bluffs, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines that allowed women to undergo residential meth treatment without losing custody of their children. In 2007, Harkin introduced the Methamphetamine Abuse Treatment and Prevention Act to increase family and jail-based treatment and break the cycle of addiction.

Harkin also worked to secure funding for court programs including juvenile drug courts, mental health diversion programs, and a family court program in Des Moines directed at early identification and intervention of abused children. As early as 2006, Harkin brought additional federal dollars to address increasing concerns with over-the-counter and prescription drug abuse in Iowa.

Law Enforcement Training and Criminal Justice:

Harkin partnered with Iowa law enforcement to establish the nationally recognized **Midwest Counter Drug Training School at Camp Dodge in Johnston**. The training center has trained thousands of law enforcement officers from Iowa and around the country in effective tactics to combat meth and other drugs. Harkin has worked to secure significant support that has ensured the MCTC remains a valuable asset for all law enforcement officers.

The Iowa State Crime Lab was updated and was able to initiate a DNA cold case review and backlog elimination effort with supplemental federal dollars.

The Midwest Forensics Resource Center at the Ames lab provides specialized crime lab and case work assistance to understaffed and under resourced jurisdictions throughout the state as well as providing criminal justice forensics training and education. Since 2003, Harkin has secured nearly \$10 million to ensure the consortium is able to serve as a resource for law enforcement and prosecutors.

To stay up-to-date on these and other issues, please visit <http://www.harkin.senate.gov/>, Senator Harkin’s Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/tomharkin> or follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/SenatorHarkin>.